

## **Student Community Space**

With the loss of the Fishbowl and the Hippodrome, GW is painfully lacking for student space. We need a place that students can go to and relax simply for relaxation's sake. The University has already committed to replacing the 15-year old furniture in Columbian Square; this is a great starting point for making that room into a more student union-resembling space. With a few other modifications, like bringing the TVs closer to eye level and placing speakers at the tables in Columbian Square that would allow students to select audio from one of the TV monitors, that space could quickly become an enjoyable student destination, rather than a stopping point en route to another class.

We need to ensure the absolute and uncompromising preservation of existing student space. In addition, all further renovations with potential bearing on student life must include persistent student-focused advocacy by the SA. We cannot allow the takeover of any of our remaining space.

## **Campus Safety**

UPD chief Kevin Hay told me that the biggest problem with 4Ride right now is its use by people who don't genuinely have a personal safety concern. Misuse of this campus safety program creates excessive personal risk and wait time for people who truly need to use it.

I propose moving 4Ride to a triage or prioritization (rather than first come, first serve) system. Priority should always be given to those who genuinely fear for their safety. The system would entail operators asking a few short questions to assess the caller's need, and responding to each call according to the urgency of that student's need for a ride.

4Ride drivers should not spend time checking out room keys and unlocking rooms at night. The current protocol for doing so is extremely time-consuming for accountability purposes (roughly half an hour from start to finish, upwards of eight times a night) and diverts effort away from actual campus safety. We ought to either give house staff or community directors master keys, or keep the key depot open 24/7 to avoid using 4Ride drivers to unlock rooms.

Finally, the SA needs to solicit student response to increased security presence in dorms and work with UPD to ensure optimal, student-friendly policy.

## **Graduate Student Policy**

There has long been a need for a unique set of rules governing alcohol at graduate events. Graduate student leaders have worked with the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education to make significant strides towards that end this year. In a similar way, I will work with graduate student organizations to modify the SA's policies towards funding events with alcohol to create more sensible policy.

Given their unique and less-involved relationship with the SA, graduate organizations ought to have a separate arrangement for handling their finances, offering them fairness and clarity, which they presently lack. I am working with graduate organizations to negotiate such an arrangement now, and will work with the next finance chair to solidify this arrangement.

Finally, I will ensure that graduate students are kept in mind when the SA is involved in campus-wide programming. We should establish, as a criterion for determining event co-sponsorships, a consideration of whether and how graduate students would be likely to participate in the event. We need to make sure that graduate students are not forgotten when the SA works on big programming, and increase the appeal of our events to graduates.

## **Gelman Library**

Gelman Library cannot be left out of any discussion of student space on this campus. While it is not a recreational space per se, it is still a critical part of nearly every student's experience. The SA established itself as an important contributor to policy regarding library renovations this year, and that trend needs to continue.

If elected, I will assert the SA's importance as a key player in the discussions of future renovations. Students need to be the number one driver of how the designs are created, and I will bridge the numerous layers of bureaucracy by providing students direct access to Gelman renovation staff and the architects by working with the Gelman student liaison and head librarian. We need to ensure that Gelman's shortcomings are appropriately addressed in the renovations and take precedence over aesthetics (i.e. more easily reserved study rooms, appropriate security detail, bike racks, a vending area, etc.).

## **Institutional Reform**

The days of meaningless nonbinding resolutions are over. I will veto any attempted

legislation that hasn't first been thoroughly researched and discussed with the appropriate administrative departments. Passing a bill without taking those first steps only perpetuates the Senate's history of empty advocacy.

Senators often fail to latch on to a big advocacy issue because the President and EVP set the advocacy agenda, essentially pursue it themselves, and sometimes bring in members of the executive cabinet when necessary. The disconnect between the executive and legislative branches leads to inefficiency and a duplication of efforts. As President (and a former Senator), I will insistently invite the Senate to participate in executive-level advocacy.

### **Fee Reduction**

John Richardson and Ted Costigan's relentless fee reduction lobbying finally paid off this semester, resulting in a 22% reduction in printing fees. We need to learn and take away from this precedent the message that unnecessarily high fees can (and should) always be renegotiated.

John and Ted laid solid groundwork by establishing a fee commission to research the number and extent of excessive fees on campus, and I had the privilege of joining them on that commission. We need to preserve and augment those findings next year, and continue to use them in our lobbying efforts.

Now that printing costs have been reduced, it's time to set our sights on a new fee that needs to go. My top priority is the fee that student organizations are forced pay for UPD security at large events. Student organizations didn't sign up for that policy, and they aren't the ones who are contractually bound to our on-campus police force. While the fee is legally nonnegotiable, the responsibility for that payment should not fall on student organizations.

If we are unable to secure funding to eliminate the cost to student organizations, there is still huge potential to mitigate the cost. Sharing the costs both across time and space for different organizations and events is a practical solution that would not impair the effectiveness of a UPD presence.

### **Academic Scheduling**

Academic scheduling is a nightmare. There is an unnecessary time lag between requests and responses because the office is so grossly understaffed, with too few employees responsible for reservations of all academic space on Foggy Bottom.

Since student organizations use academic space for events so frequently, often using event space for academic purposes as well, the division between academic and events scheduling needs to go. Merging the two offices will reduce the excessive demand for event space that persists every year and will streamline the academic scheduling process. This will give student organizations far more flexibility and opportunity with their programming.

As the events scheduling office develops the long-term capabilities associated with merging the two offices, we must (at a minimum) insist on the hiring of one or two new staffers to alleviate the pressure on academic scheduling in its current state. This is an immediately necessary interim solution, while we move towards a longer-term fix.